

Message Text

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47

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 PASS-00 COME-00 JUSE-00

EB-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 FTC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04 H-02 /089 W

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R 151238Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2506

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS ALGERIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

USINT BAGHDAD IRAQ

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA MOROCCO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS SYRIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM SUDAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT MOROCCO

AMEMBASSY SANA YEMEN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISRAEL

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI LIBYA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS TUNISIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAMA 1162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EGEN, PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS:

THE BAHRAIN CASE

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REF : STATE 234765

1. IN BAHRAIN, THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE IS OFFICIALLY HEADED BY A MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS. HE REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND PORTS WHO, IN TURN, IS THE BAHRAINI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE, DAMASCUS.

2. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY FROM THE CENTRAL ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE WHICH HE APPLIES LOCALLY. HE HAS THE DISCRETION TO WAIVE THE BOYCOTT ON ANY PARTICULAR ISSUE OR GOOD IF HE DEEMS THE IMPORT OF THAT ITEM TO BE "ESSENTIAL" TO THE NATION'S SECURITY OR DEVELOPMENT. IN ACTUAL ADMINISTRATION, EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE ONLY FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, NOT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LOCAL POLICE USE LAND ROVERS, PRODUCED BY BRITISH LEYLAND.

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, THERE IS NO PUBLIC LAW OR AMIRI DECREE RELATING TO THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT. RATHER, A CABINET DECISION WAS MADE SOME TIME AGO TO OBSERVE THE BOYCOTT (IN FACT, BAHRAIN OBSERVED A MODIFIED BOYCOTT FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED) AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES WERE ISSUED THROUGH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE WHICH ARE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND HIS SUBORDINATE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOYCOTT OFFICE. THERE IS THUS NO LAW OR PUBLISHED REGULATION AS SUCH WHICH WE CAN SUPPLY THE DEPARTMENT.

4. IN BAHRAIN, THE BOYCOTT IS CLOSELY OBSERVED, EXCEPT IN THOSE CASES, AS WITH BRITISH LEYLAND, WHERE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN MAKE THE CASE FOR AN EXCEPTION, BASED ON SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES, THESE EXCEPTIONS ARE IN FACT MADE ONLY RARELY, IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO POINT RAISED REFTTEL, PARA 2, AS TO WHETHER ENFORCEMENT OF BOYCOTT BY LOCAL FIRMS IS BASED PRIMARILY ON LOCAL LEGAL COMPULSION OR ARAB ZEAL, WE WOULD SAY THAT THESE ARE INTER-LOCKING INTERESTS. THE BOYCOTT IS ENFORCED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT ANY KNOWN EXCEPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE BOYCOTT AS SUCH IS LOCALLY UNDERSTOOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE A POLITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR ANY ARAB STATE IN GOOD STANDING AND THERE IS A WILLINGNESS TO USE THIS KIND OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE NON-ARAB NATIONS TO RECONSIDER THEIR ISRAELI/COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL TIES.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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